

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03083 181717Z  
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 DODE-00  
ERDA-05 PM-04 /080 W  
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P 181705Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5767  
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNVC, PARM, PFOR, US, WG  
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. THERE HAS BEEN GROWING GERMAN CONCERN AND QUESTION-  
ING ABOUT U.S. POLICY AND MOTIVES IN OUR EFFORTS TO  
INHIBIT OR STOP TRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY THAT  
WOULD ENABLE RECEIVING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS. THE FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE HERE IS, OF COURSE,  
THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.
2. REACTION TO U.S. EFFORTS HAS GROWN STEADILY OVER  
THE PAST FEW MONTHS, REACHING A PEAK WITH VICE PRESIDENT  
MONDALE'S VISIT TO GERMANY LATE IN JANUARY AND STATE  
SECRETARY HERMES' RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.
3. WHILE SOME MEDIA REPORTING HAS BEEN CONSTRAINED AND  
REASONABLE, OTHER HAS NOT. MISSION AND CONSTITUENT  
POST OFFICERS ARE ENCOUNTERING INCREASING PRESSURE FROM  
THEIR CONTACTS ON THIS ISSUE.
4. DESPITE EFFORTS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, MANY ARE  
SAYING THAT U.S. MOTIVES ARE COMMERCIAL, NOT "MORAL",

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PAGE 02 BONN 03083 181717Z

AND THAT OUR GOAL IS TO MONOPOLIZE NUCLEAR SALES. THE  
FACT THAT THE U.S. HAS NEVER EXPORTED REPROCESSING AND  
ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY TENDS TO BE OVERLOOKED OR  
IGNORED. THUS, IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN  
STUTTGART, COLOGNE AND HANNOVER, OFFICERS HAVE ENCOUN-  
TERED SOMETIMES VEHEMENT REACTION ON THE PART OF  
JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS, LOCAL OFFICIALS AND OTHER

GERMAN CONTACTS. IN BOTH MEDIA COVERAGE AND FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSIONS, A STRONG THREAD OF NATIONALISM EMERGES. WHETHER OUR MOTIVES ARE SUSPECT OR NOT, COMMENT REFLECTS GERMAN DETERMINATION TO KEEP ITS BARGAIN WITH BRAZIL AND RESENTMENT OF PERCEIVED AMERICAN INTERVENTION.

5. THIS ISSUE, DESPITE ATTEMPTS TO KEEP IT LOW KEY, HAS TAKEN ON ITS OWN MOMENTUM AND WE NOW CONSIDER IT TO BE A MAJOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROBLEM.

6. FOR DETAILS ON MEDIA COMMENTS, SEE DAILY MEDIA REACTION REPORTS FILED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND USIA BY USIS BONN AND BERLIN.

7. IF APPROPRIATE, DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER COULD SAY SOMETHING BEFORE DEPARTING FOR BRAZIL THAT CONFIRMS THAT USG MOTIVATIONS ARE NOT COMMERCIAL, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE FRG-BRAZIL AGREEMENT.

8. MEANWHILE APPROPRIATE MISSION ELEMENTS WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. TO THAT END, SPECIAL NOTE SHOULD BE PAID TO THIS ISSUE IN PREPARATION OF THE WIRELESS FILE AND IN IDENTIFYING AND SUPPLYING STATEMENTS, ARTICLES OR OTHER USEFUL BACKGROUND PIECES FOR POST USE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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